

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 9-13 are new.

Support for Claim 9 is found on page 8, line 22 in the specification and in Claim 4.

Support for Claim 10 is found on page 8, lines 22-23, in the specification.

Support for Claim 11 is found on page 9, lines 43-45, in the specification.

Support for Claim 12 is found on page 8, lines 40-41, in the specification.

Support for Claim 13 is found on page 9, lines 4-6, in the specification.

No new matter will be added to the above-identified application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-13 will be active.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The claimed invention is drawn to an aqueous polymer dispersion based on copolymers of vinylaromatics and butadiene, their preparation and their use as sizes for paper.

Paper, board and cardboard is prepared using sizing agents for the purpose of providing a surface on which inks can be applied to obtain a printing image of good quality. Improvement in printing surface quality of paper, board and cardboard is sought.

The claimed invention addresses this problem by providing an aqueous polymer dispersion based on copolymers of vinylaromatics and butadiene, which is obtainable by free radical copolymerization of (a) from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight of styrene and/or methylstyrene, (b) 0.1-99.9% by weight of 1,3-butadiene and/or isoprene and (c) from 0 to 40% by weight of other ethylenically unsaturated copolymerizable monomers, the sum of the monomers (a), (b) and (c) always being 100%, in the presence of from 10 to 40% by weight, based on the monomers used, of at least one degraded starch having a molecular weight M_n of from 500 to

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40,000 and of water-soluble redox catalysts, the redox catalyst used being a combination of hydrogen peroxide and at least one heavy metal salt from the series consisting of the cerium, manganese and iron(II) salts. Such a composition is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited reference.

The rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) over Gaschler et al. (U.S. 2004/0242766) is respectfully traversed.

A certified copy of DE 102 18 418.6 and certified English translation are herein submitted in this application. The priority document was filed April 24, 2002, and therefore antedates the Gaschler et al. PCT and German applications publication date of April 10, 2003. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference is therefore removed as prior art.

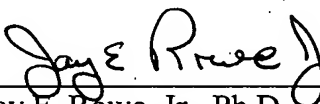
Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) over Gaschler et al. (U.S. 2004/0242766) be withdrawn.

New claims 9-13 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 and therefore require no further search in this application.

Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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